

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON A NATO CONSUMER LOGISTICS
FORUM

REF: A. AC/300-A/3, DTD JAN 5, 77
B. CMCM-5-77, 19 JAN 77
C. USNATO 0435, DTG 261552Z 77 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR U.S. REP AT MEETING SCHEDULED
PER REFERENCE A.

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1. A KEY ELEMENT OF US POLICY CONCERNING NATO LOGISTICS
RATIONALIZATION IS THE URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A SENIOR LEVEL CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM IN ORDER
TO COMPLEMENT, PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR AND SUPPORT IMPLE-
MENTATION OF ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE NATO MILITARY
LOGISTICIANS THAT CANNOT OTHERWISE BE RESOLVED AT THE
MILITARY LEVEL.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOW TRY TO MOVE THIS ENTIRE ACTION ALONG AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP (AHWG) RECOMMENDATION CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE NAC/DPC AS SOON AS FULL NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION WILL PERMIT. IN THIS CONNECTION,

WE NEED TO CHANGE, IF POSSIBLE, THE NEGATIVE VIEW EXPRESSED TOWARD A CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM BY THE GERMAN AND BELGIAN REPS DURING THE WORK OF THE PHASE I WORKING PARTY, SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE CARRIED OVER INTO PHASE II AND AFFECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NAC/DPC. WE ARE CONSIDERING REQUESTING THAT AMEMBASSIES BONN AND BRUSSELS DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES OF RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. IF THIS APPROACH SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY IT MAY BE DESIRABLE THAT A KNOWLEDGABLE USNATO REPRESENTATIVE ASSIST THE EMBASSIES. AT THIS TIME, WE PREFER TO HAVE A READING ON APPARENT NATIONAL OPPOSITION FROM THE JANUARY 28, 1977 AD HOC WORKING GROUP MEETING AND MISSION ADVICE ON THIS APPROACH.

3. US REP SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE DISCUSSION IN JANUARY 6, 1977 MC MEETING PERTAINING TO THE CONSUMER LOGISTICS GROUP UNDER THE HEADING "NATO LOGISTICS ACTION PROGRAM" AND WITH FOLLOW-ON ACTION IN REFERENCE B SETTING FORTH THE IMS/MC VIEW. ALTHOUGH WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP WILL BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT FORMATION OF A CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM, IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE CON-

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TINUES TO BE SOME LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SENIOR MILITARY LOGISTICIANS MEETINGS AND THE PROPOSED CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM. THE US REP SHOULD REFER TO THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS WORKING PARTY ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE STUDY SET FORTH IN AC/300-D/1 TO HELP CLARIFY THIS RELATIONSHIP.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT AC/300-D/1 IS VERY CONSERVATIVE IN ITS VIEW OF THE ASSISTANCE THAT A CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM COULD BE IN ADDRESSING THE 21 LOGISTICS PROBLEM AREAS REVIEWED. IT MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL TO PROVIDE IN THE AHWG RECOMMENDATION TO THE NAC/DPC FURTHER AMPLIFICATION OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH A CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM COULD BE IN SOME OF THOSE AREAS IN WHICH THE WORKING PARTY FELT THERE WAS NO ROLE. PROBLEM AREAS 1,3,5,9,25,26, AND 31 ARE POSSIBLE EXAMPLES.

5. COMMENT ON REF C WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL.
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